

(a) whether any export oriented units have been set up in the country particularly in Gujarat and Bihar particularly in tribal areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof location-wise;

(c) if not the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of such States where export oriented units have been set up, State-wise and location-wise;

(e) the details of those units which have fulfilled their export commitments and their earning from exports;

(f) the details of such units which have failed to fulfil their export commitments and the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to monitor the performance of these export oriented units and to fulfil their export commitments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (g) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Seizure of Gold Biscuits

4274. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence seized gold biscuits weighing 62 Kg. worth over Rs. 3.21 crore in Delhi on December 26, 1996;

(b) if so, the details of the seizure;

(c) the number and details of gold seizures made by DRI and other enforcement investigating, intelligence or security agencies in the country during 1996; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent gold smuggling ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Acting on specific intelligence, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence seized 531 gold biscuits weighing 61.93 Kgs. valued at Rs. 312.00 lakhs on 26.12.1996 from a Maruti Gypsy. Two persons have been arrested and remanded to judicial custody in this regard.

(c) and (d) Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has during 1996 seized gold weighing 182 Kg. worth Rs. 936 lakhs in 20 cases. During the same period 890 Kgs. of gold worth Rs. 4616 Lakhs has been seized by other Anti-Smuggling agencies (figures are provisional). Steps taken to prevent smuggling of gold includes further liberalization

of gold imports under Passenger Baggage scheme, besides high alert being maintained by anti-smuggling agencies to detect and prevent smuggling of gold into the country by surveillance over sensitive areas, targeting of intelligence and use of sophisticated equipments like metal detectors, colour baggage X-Ray machine etc.

[Translation]

Recommendation of Chellaiah and Rekhi Committee

4275. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ASSOCHAM has stated in its Memorandum submitted to the Government that a Custom and Excise Duty Settlement Commission should be set up immediately on the recommendations of Chellaiah and Rekhi Committee; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal is still under examination in consultation with the Ministry of Law.

[English]

Export of Handicrafts

4276. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Export Promotion Council of Handicrafts has explored problems faced by Handicraft Centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts has identified the infrastructural problems faced by the handicraft centres which mainly relate to the areas like frequent power cuts, lack of telecommunication facilities, bad condition of roads, distant location of passport offices & foreign post offices, inadequate Rail & Air transport facilities, availability of seasoning plants for wood etc.

The remedial action is an on-going process. However, the action recently taken by the Government, inter-alia, include; setting up of telephone exchange with 4000 lines at Moradabad, earmarking Rs. 50.00 lakh for establishing a growth centre at village Chaudharpur in Moradabad by